

## In the Claims

Amend the following claims:

A<sub>2</sub>

1 1. (Amended) A recording head for reading and writing information with respect  
2 to a rotating disk medium, said head including a pad [region] having a working surface  
3 which contacts said medium during the reading/writing process, a magnetic pole tip  
4 structure being embedded within said pad [region], said pad [region] having a leading  
5 edge and a trailing edge with said leading edge facing in the general direction of relative  
6 motion between said head and said medium, and wherein said leading edge has a  
7 narrower width than said trailing edge.

A<sub>3</sub>

1 5. (Amended) A slider for supporting a magnetic transducer above the surface of  
2 a rotating disk medium, said slider comprising:  
3 a body;  
4 a plurality of rail members extending outward from said body in a direction  
5 towards said medium, each of said rail members having a leading and a trailing edge with  
6 said leading edge facing in the general direction of relative motion between said  
7 transducer [head] and said medium, and wherein said leading edge has a narrower width  
8 as compared to said trailing edge;  
9 each of said rail members also having an air-bearing surface which is alternately  
10 brought into contact with and separated from said surface of said medium, said air-  
11 bearing surface being generally parallel to said surface of said medium.

A<sub>4</sub>

1 8. (Amended) The slider [recording head] of Claim 5 wherein each of said rail  
2 members has a parabolic shape, with the narrow part of said parabolic shape pointing in  
3 said direction.

A4  
Concl. 1 9. (Amended) The slider of Claim 5 wherein said leading edges are tapered away  
2 from said air-bearing surfaces [working surface] to create a lifting effect to maintain said  
3 body at a predetermined height above said surface of said medium.

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Add the following claims:

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Sub 1  
2 10. A slider, comprising  
3 a transducer for transferring information to and from a rotating disk medium  
4 during read and write operations; and  
5 a pad which maintains substantially continuous contact with the medium during  
6 the read and write operations, wherein the pad has a leading edge that faces into a general  
7 direction of relative motion between the slider and the medium, the pad has a trailing  
8 edge that faces away from the direction, the leading edge has a width that is substantially  
9 perpendicular to the direction, the trailing edge has a width that is substantially  
10 perpendicular to the direction, and the width of the leading edge is substantially narrower  
than the width of the trailing edge.

1 11. The slider of Claim 10 wherein the pad includes a V-shaped portion, a  
2 narrow part of the V-shaped portion is the leading edge and a wide part of the V-shaped  
3 portion is spaced from the leading edge.

1 12. The slider of Claim 11 wherein the wide part of the V-shaped portion is  
2 the trailing edge.

1 13. The slider of Claim 11 wherein the wide part of the V-shaped portion is  
2 spaced from the trailing edge.

1 14. The slider of claim 10 wherein the pad includes a U-shaped portion, a  
2 narrow part of the U-shaped portion is the leading edge and a wide part of the U-shaped  
3 portion is spaced from the leading edge.

1           15.     The slider of Claim 14 wherein the wide part of the U-shaped portion is  
2     the trailing edge.

1           16.     The slider of Claim 14 wherein the wide part of the U-shaped portion is  
2     spaced from the trailing edge.

1           17.     The slider of claim 10 wherein the pad includes a wedge-shaped portion, a  
2     narrow part of the wedge-shaped portion is the leading edge and a wide part of the  
3     wedge-shaped portion is spaced from the leading edge.

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1           18.     The slider of Claim 17 wherein the wide part of the wedge-shaped portion  
2     is the trailing edge.

1           19.     The slider of Claim 17 wherein the wide part of the wedge-shaped portion  
2     is spaced from the trailing edge.

1           20.     The slider of claim 10 wherein the pad includes a parabolic-shaped  
2     portion, a narrow part of the parabolic-shaped portion is the leading edge and a wide part  
3     of the parabolic-shaped portion is spaced from the leading edge.

1           21.     The slider of Claim 20 wherein the wide part of the parabolic-shaped  
2     portion is the trailing edge.

1           22.     The slider of Claim 20 wherein the wide part of the parabolic-shaped  
2     portion is spaced from the trailing edge.

1           23.     The slider of claim 10 wherein the pad includes a hyperbolic-shaped  
2     portion, a narrow part of the hyperbolic-shaped portion is the leading edge and a wide  
3     part of the hyperbolic-shaped portion is spaced from the leading edge.

1           24.     The slider of Claim 23 wherein the wide part of the hyperbolic-shaped  
2     portion is the trailing edge.

1           25.     The slider of Claim 23 wherein the wide part of the hyperbolic-shaped  
2     portion is spaced from the trailing edge.

1           26.     The slider of claim 10 wherein the pad has a single flat continuous surface  
2     that maintains the substantially continuous contact with the medium.

1           27.     The slider of claim 10 wherein the slider has a leading edge that faces into  
2     the direction and a trailing edge that faces away from the direction, and the leading edge  
3     of the pad is spaced from the leading edge of the slider.

1           28.     The slider of claim 27 wherein the trailing edge of the pad is the trailing  
2     edge of the slider.

1           29.     The slider of claim 27 wherein the leading edge of the slider has a width  
2     that is substantially perpendicular to the direction, the trailing edge of the slider has a  
3     width that is substantially perpendicular to the direction, and the width of the leading  
4     edge of the slider is substantially identical to the width of the trailing edge of the slider.

1           30.     The slider of claim 27 wherein a distance between the leading edge of the  
2     pad and the trailing edge of the slider is substantially less than a distance between the  
3     leading edge of the pad and the leading edge of the slider.

1           31.     The slider of claim 10, wherein the slider has a leading edge that faces into  
2     the direction and a trailing edge that faces away from the direction, and the leading edge  
3     of the pad is the leading edge of the slider.

1 32. The slider of claim 31 wherein the trailing edge of the pad is the trailing  
2 edge of the slider.

1 33. The slider of claim 10 wherein the pad has a uniform thickness.

1 34. The slider of claim 10 wherein the slider has a uniform thickness.

46 1 35 The slider of claim 10 wherein the pad deflects debris away from an  
2 interface between the pad and the medium along sides of the pad during the read and  
3 write operations.

1 36. The slider of claim 10 wherein the pad maintains continuous contact with  
2 the medium during the read and write operations.

1 37. The slider of claim 10 wherein the pad maintains frequent contact with the  
2 medium during the read and write operations.

1 38. The slider of claim 10 wherein the pad maintains near-contact with the  
2 medium during the read and write operations.

1 39. The slider of claim 10 wherein the pad maintains a near-contact flying  
2 height in the range of 1 to 3 microinches during the read and write operations.

1           40.     A slider, comprising  
2           a transducer for transferring information to and from a rotating disk medium  
3     during read and write operations; and  
4           first and second rails, wherein each of the rails has a leading edge that faces into a  
5     general direction of relative motion between the slider and the medium, a trailing edge  
6     that faces away from the direction, and an air-bearing surface, the leading edge has a  
7     width that is substantially perpendicular to the direction, the trailing edge has a width that  
8     is substantially perpendicular to the direction, and the width of the leading edge is  
9     substantially narrower than the width of the trailing edge.

1           41.     The slider of Claim 40 wherein each of the rails includes a V-shaped  
2     portion, a narrow part of the V-shaped portion is the leading edge and a wide part of the  
3     V-shaped portion is spaced from the leading edge.

1           42.     The slider of Claim 41 wherein the wide part of the V-shaped portion is  
2     the trailing edge.

1           43.     The slider of Claim 42 wherein a thickness of the narrow part of the V-  
2     shaped portion is substantially identical to a thickness of the wide part of the V-shaped  
3     portion.

1           44.     The slider of Claim 42 wherein a thickness of the narrow part of the V-  
2     shaped portion is substantially less than a thickness of the wide part of the V-shaped  
3     portion.

1           45.     The slider of Claim 41 wherein the wide part of the V-shaped portion is  
2     spaced from the trailing edge.

1           46.     The slider of Claim 45 wherein a distance between the narrow part of the  
2     V-shaped portion and the wide part of the V-shaped portion is substantially less than a  
3     distance between the wide part of the V-shaped portion and the trailing edge.

1           47.     The slider of claim 40 wherein each of the rails includes a U-shaped  
2     portion, a narrow part of the U-shaped portion is the leading edge and a wide part of the  
3     U-shaped portion is spaced from the leading edge.

1           48.     The slider of Claim 47 wherein the wide part of the U-shaped portion is  
2     spaced from the trailing edge.

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1           49.     The slider of Claim 47 wherein each of the rails includes a rectilinear  
2     portion between the U-shaped portion and the trailing edge.

1           50.     The slider of claim 40 wherein each of the rails includes a wedge-shaped  
2     portion, a narrow part of the wedge-shaped portion is the leading edge and a wide part of  
3     the wedge-shaped portion is spaced from the leading edge.

1           51.     The slider of Claim 50 wherein the wide part of the wedge-shaped portion  
2     is spaced from the trailing edge.

1           52.     The slider of Claim 50 wherein each of the rails includes a rectilinear  
2     portion between the wedge-shaped portion and the trailing edge, and the narrow part of  
3     the wedge-shaped portion is aligned with an inner side of the rectilinear portion and  
4     spaced from an outer side of the rectilinear portion.

1           53.     The slider of claim 40 wherein each of the rails includes a parabolic-  
2     shaped portion, a narrow part of the parabolic-shaped portion is the leading edge and a  
3     wide part of the parabolic-shaped portion is spaced from the leading edge.

1           54.     The slider of Claim 53 wherein the wide part of the parabolic-shaped  
2     portion is spaced from the trailing edge.

1           55.     The slider of Claim 53 wherein each of the rails includes a rectilinear  
2     portion between the parabolic-shaped portion and the trailing edge.

1           56.     The slider of claim 40 wherein each of the rails has a hyperbolic-shaped  
2     portion, a narrow part of the hyperbolic-shaped portion is the leading edge and a wide  
3     part of the hyperbolic-shaped portion is spaced from the leading edge.

1           57.     The slider of Claim 56 wherein the wide part of the hyperbolic-shaped  
2     portion is spaced from the trailing edge.

1           58.     The slider of Claim 56 wherein each of the rails includes a rectilinear  
2     portion between the hyperbolic-shaped portion and the trailing edge.

1           59.     The slider of claim 40 wherein the air-bearing surface is a flat continuous  
2     surface that maintains substantially continuous contact with the medium.

1           60.     The slider of claim 40 wherein the slider has a leading edge that faces into  
2     the direction and a trailing edge that faces away from the direction, the leading edge of  
3     each of the rails extends to the leading edge of the slider, and the trailing edge of each of  
4     the rails extends to the trailing edge of the slider.

1           61.     The slider of claim 40 wherein the slider has first and second outer side  
2     surfaces, each of the rails has an outer side surface, a portion of the outer side surface of  
3     the first rail extends to the first outer side surface of the slider, and a portion of the outer  
4     side surface of the second rail extends to the second outer side surface of the slider.



1           62.    The slider of claim 40 wherein each of the rails has an inner and outer  
2 surface and the leading edge is symmetrically disposed between the inner and outer  
3 surfaces.

1           63.    The slider of claim 40 wherein each of the rails has an inner surface and  
2 outer surface and the leading edge is asymmetrically disposed between the inner and  
3 outer surfaces.

1           64.    The slider of claim 40 wherein each of the rails has a uniform thickness.

1           65.    The slider of claim 40 wherein each of the rails has a non-uniform  
2 thickness.

1           66.    The slider of claim 40 wherein each of the rails deflects debris on the  
2 medium away from the air-bearing surface.

1           67.    The slider of claim 40 wherein each of the rails maintains frequent contact  
2 with the medium during the read and write operations.

1           68.    The slider of claim 40 wherein each of the rails maintains near-contact  
2 with the medium during the read and write operations.

1           69.    The slider of claim 40 wherein each of the rails maintains a near-contact  
2 flying height in the range of 1 to 3 microinches during the read and write operations.

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